



# Keeney Cub Chronicles

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Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Malan

## From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Martin-Beaulieu

Throughout this newsletter you will read about exciting events and learning opportunities that are happening throughout our school. The year is off to a great start and we look forward to our journey together as a family-school community.

As we begin a new school year, in addition to reconnecting with friends, learning new things, and meeting new teachers, there is sometimes a return of peer conflicts. Many times these peer conflicts result in hurt feelings or anxiety. In some cases, conflicts can escalate to ongoing mean behavior or bullying behavior. It is important

to know that mean behavior can lead to bullying behavior, but they are not always the same thing.

The word "bullying" conjures up many images, descriptions, and definitions in our minds. It is often difficult to come to consensus about what bullying really is. In fact, there are 49 states with bullying laws (Connecticut being one of them) and each law defines bullying in a slightly different way. This is indicative of the complexity involved in the label "bully".

Mean Behavior, however, is relatively simple to define. During the past few years that I have been a part of Keeney, I have visited classrooms to talk with students about mean behavior. In every instance, kids were able to give me examples of mean behavior. We know what mean looks like and we know how it feels.

So what is the difference between mean and bullying? That is a difficult question because all bullying behavior is mean, but not all mean behavior is bullying. Bullying behavior, according to CT law, is mean behavior that has been repeated and has a specific type of impact on the recipient of that behavior. Mean behavior can be

hurtful and annoying. Bullying behavior is devastating. There is a higher level of seriousness associated with bullying behavior because bullying behavior is significant and rightfully occupies its own space on the "mean behavior" continuum.

So how do we stop it? The adults at Keeney Street are keenly aware of what mean behavior looks like and when we see it, we respond. ***If It's Mean, Intervene*** is a phrase we live by. We know that if we stop mean whenever we see it, it will never have the opportunity to grow into bullying behavior.

We are also careful not to call all mean behavior, bullying behavior. This is important because the seriousness of bullying behavior begins to diminish if everything becomes bullying.

In addition to adult responses to mean behavior, last year we began to intentionally teach students how to advocate for what is right and to stand up for ourselves. We all know that mean is wrong, so when we see it, we should advocate for what is right. That might be saying to the other child, "That's mean. We don't do that here at Keeney." That might be walking away from someone who is

being mean. That also might be going to an adult for help. Advocating is not tattling. Advocating is not weak. It takes courage to advocate. This is our message to students.

I am proud to report that I have been witnessing many more students advocating for what is right and for themselves already this year than I have in the past. We have an impressive student body! I believe in the power of advocacy and I believe in the strength of children. When we all say, "No" - *mean* will have to go.

As adult family members, what can you do if your child is sharing with you that s/he is being treated in a mean way? You can allow that child to talk to you, you can discuss ways in which s/he can advocate for what is right, and if you believe it is necessary, you can communicate your concerns with the teacher or school.

If you believe your child is being bullied, it is important that you contact the school. You can do this by phone, stopping by, or by completing a formal bully report form (located in the office or on the Manchester Board of Ed website under policies) which will initiate an investigation.

If a formal bully investigation is initiated, I must receive written consent from the parent of the target to identify him/her in the investigation. I also contact the parent of the alleged bully to inform them that an investigation is taking place. The investigation consists of student interviews and staff statements. Within 48 hours of the conclusion of an investigation I am required to contact the parents of both students to discuss the results of an investigation.

If an investigation does not result in a substantiated act of bullying, the process is ended. If an investigation does result in a substantiated act of bullying, a Safety Plan is developed to ensure additional supervision or separation of students depending on the severity of the events. *In either case we take action with the goal of ending mean behavior.*

If you have any questions regarding this process or would like to discuss the difference between mean behavior and mean behavior that turns into bullying behavior, please feel free to contact me.

## Preschool

Mrs. Lepack, Mrs. Aldrich

Fall will be an ongoing theme throughout the month. We are looking for signs of fall and learning about fall activities. We are noticing that leaves are changing colors. We will talk about the farm and farm animals. We will learn about pumpkins and how they grow. The color orange and black will be introduced. We will review colors we have learned so far. October is Fire Prevention Month. We will talk about fire safety, fire fighters and fire trucks. Fall is a wonderful time of year!

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Kratz, Mrs. Woble, Ms. Elmore

In Kindergarten we are learning the school and classroom routines. Kindergarteners have been busy in reading. We are learning the letter name and sound correspondences. Our lessons have been focusing on repetitive text, rhyme and making predictions. While sharing stories we model touching each word as we read it and directionality of print. In phonics we continue to identify the beginning

sound of words. We are also identifying words that rhyme and clapping the parts of words (syllables). We are having fun exploring the season of fall. We are looking forward to our field trip to Auer Farm on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **First Grade**

**Mrs. Sisson, Mrs. Karlins,  
Miss Branciforte**

First graders have had a very exciting beginning to our school year. We are busy each day learning so many new things! We have been learning all of the qualities that make great readers, writers, mathematicians, and classmates. We are reading a variety of genres and working on building our independent reading stamina. This takes a lot of practice both at school and at home. In math, we are learning strategies for addition. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm our students bring to learning each day! We are looking forward to meeting our first grade families at open house.

### **Second Grade**

**Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Frallicciardi,  
Mrs. Smith**

It has been a busy start to our school year! Second graders have spent the last month getting to know each other and school routines. We have done various getting to know you activities. Readers' and Writers' workshops are running smoothly in all classrooms. Second grade writers have been thinking about small moments that they have experienced. They have created topic lists and webs of ideas which are kept in their writer's notebooks. Students can refer to these resources when writing their personal narratives.

Second grade readers have been learning how to choose a "just right" book. They are spending time each day reading independently using active reading strategies in order to comprehend their texts.

In math students are exploring place value using various manipulatives and games. Next students will learn strategies to improve their fluency with addition and subtraction facts.

We're off to a great start and looking forward to working with your children this year!

## Third Grade

Mrs. Silvia, Mrs. Steiger



Third graders are adjusting very well to the expectations and routines of their new school year. In writing we have been studying different authors, such as Patricia Pollaco and Cynthia Rylant, and learning where authors get their ideas to write about. This has lead to many exciting personal narratives written by our students. In science we are beginning our unit on rocks and minerals. Students are exploring different kinds of rocks and minerals by acting as a "rock detectives!" We have a group of enthusiastic and eager learners in third grade!

## Fourth Grade

Mrs. Christensen, Ms. Olesnevech  
Mrs. Angelo

The fourth grade team has been getting into the swing of

things! Teachers have noted that students play very well together and are priding themselves on sharing, taking turns, and being kind to each other at recess. They have twenty minutes to run around and play and they take good advantage of this time!

A couple of times we took the opportunity to get together as a grade level and do some team building activities. Juan Solis coined this time "Build." One challenge fourth graders has to face was to cross the quick sand and get their teams safely to the other side. This was not a race, but rather an opportunity to show how they could work together to attain their goal. Jonathan Allen said that he noticed teams were supposed to communicate and work together to get the mats across. It was challenging to get to the other side. Dylan McKenna added, "I learned that working together could be quicker and it could be easier." Needless to say, the afternoon was a success!

In addition to building relationships with each other, students are delving into academics. We are all working on building a stronger knowledge of place

value and numbers in math, generating ideas about our personal lives so that we can incorporate them into our writing, and learning strategies that will help strengthen our reading comprehension. Speaking of strengthen, fourth graders are responsible for mastering the meaning of forty specific academic vocabulary words this year. The first word students in Mrs. Christensen's class learned was the word strengthen. The class discussed how strengthening means building and happens with practice over time.

### **Fifth Grade**

**Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Borcea,  
Miss Wallmark**

Greeting to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
parents/guardians

Here is a rundown of what our oldest and wisest cubs are up to...

In math students are practicing place value of whole and decimal numbers including numbers to a million and the thousandths. Students are learning how to order, round, and compare relationships of numbers.

In science students are becoming astronomers by observing the moon daily and understanding how our own planet moves in the universe. You should notice your child recording a picture of the moon every day at approximately the same time, in their journal.

In writing students are discussing the elements of Writer's Workshop and will be sharing the stories of their lives through personal narrative. We have laid the ground works by creating lists of "Things I Want to Accomplish Before Middle School" and writing "I Am" poems.

In reading we have been discussing the elements of the UCONN-developed SEM-R (Schoolwide Enrichment Model- Reading) program. We are focusing on strategies of becoming a better reader; discussing character traits, comparing and contrasting characters, and main idea.

The fifth grade teams looks forward to an extremely successful year with your student. Be sure to help your child become a responsible citizen by checking student planners for required assignments. As you have



dinner with your child be sure to ask about the learning that's happening in their daily lives.

## PE Department News

Mr. DeNies

I am excited to be starting another great year at Keeney working with all of the students as they enhance their quality of life through active living. We are aware of the importance of providing the children with meaningful and enjoyable movement experiences. Movement and play are focal points of children's lives, critical to all aspects of their growth and development.

Physical Education is an integral part of the total educational process. We offer unique opportunities to release stress under a safe, positive, active atmosphere. Active participation further increases the student's ability to focus on other academic settings. They also benefit with enhanced memory and learning, better concentration and increased problem solving abilities. Many of the activities teach students to be willing to take appropriate risks and have a

more positive attitude toward self and others.

The units of activities are numerous in order to properly accommodate Pre K through fifth grade. There are some that are unique to a specific age group and some skill sets such as "Ball Skills" cover the spectrum of grades. Under this heading, each grade has certain target or mastery levels that students will be challenged to meet. As they grow and learn, skills are integrated with game and sport specific strategies that allow students to successfully participate in other active settings, such as performing arts, recreational activities and team sports.

When you attend Keeney's open house, you can pick up a list of "Units of Activities" which is the basic guideline of themes that the students follow during the year. You can also ask your child about the "Expectations" during their class time and how that helps all of them learn and have fun safely.

I look forward to a wonderful year of meaningful and fun activity with all of the students.

## Art Department

Mrs. Punty



Currently, all art classes are engrossed in drawing units. Students started the year with working on the PTA theme, "The world would be a better place if..." Some of the children are taking this very seriously and creating messages about peace and taking care of our world. Others are creating pure fantasy like a world of candy or money that grows on trees. Fourth and fifth graders are beginning to brainstorm for fire prevention posters. Third graders will soon learn about how to show depth and distance in a drawing. They will be using the Youth Services art initiative theme of "things on a farm". Second graders will learn to draw trees. First graders will study prehistoric French Lascaux Cave paintings and then create their own cave drawing and paintings. Kindergarten students are trying all kinds of drawing, including drawing friends and pets. We read

Eric Carle's beautifully illustrated book, Friends.

I look forward to seeing families at Open House on October 10. Prior to and after that, feel free to stop in and visit the art room or call or email with questions. If you want to help out during your child's art class, I welcome you. Please contact me to figure out what times work for both of us. Again, welcome to Keeney if you are a new family and welcome back if you have been here in the past.

I am having surgery mid-October and certified art teacher Mr. Paul Iezzi will be substituting for my classes through the remainder of the month. I trust he will be a knowledgeable and caring visiting artist/teacher and offer new and exciting insights to our children.

## Music

Miss Haveles

Student Teacher: Please welcome student teacher Miss Christina Kershaw from Central Connecticut State University. Miss Kershaw is completing the first half of her student teaching at Keeney and will then complete her second placement



at Manchester High School. We are looking forward to her teaching music classes, fifth grade chorus, and participating in school activities.

School Song: Included in this newsletter is the printed notation for the Keeney Street Elementary School Song which was written by our Fifth Grade students during the 2008-2009 school year. All current students are reviewing and learning the school song so we can sing it together at school assemblies and other school events. Please ask your child/ren to share it with you!

Winter Concert: Our young musicians are currently preparing for our Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 16, 2014. The Fourth and Fifth Grade Band, Fourth and Fifth Grade Orchestra, and Fifth Grade Chorus will perform in two concerts at 10:00 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. in the Keeney Street School Gymnasium. Parents and families are welcome to attend the 2:15 p.m. concert. Please note that all students in fifth grade participate in chorus as part of their music education. More information about the concerts will be sent home after Thanksgiving.

Spring Concert: We will have our Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 10:00am and 2:15 p.m. in the Keeney gym. Our evening concert for parents and families will be held on Thursday, May, 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Bennet Academy's Cone Gymnasium. The Fourth and Fifth Grade Band, Fourth and Fifth Grade Orchestra, and Fifth Grade Chorus will perform at all three concerts. We look forward to seeing parents and families at the evening concert. Please mark your calendars!

## Literacy Room

Miss Swan

This year teachers in grades K-5 will be teaching writing using the workshop approach. Writers' Workshop is a framework for teaching writing in an atmosphere of exploration, openness, and a love for learning! Students are given opportunities to write in a variety of genres and to foster a love of writing. Writers' Workshop is a method which unleashes each person's voice on paper. With few restrictions for rough drafts, young students can

begin writing before they have mastered the technicalities of writing. This enables them to reflect on their lives and record their reflections and feelings.

Proponents of Writers' Workshop believe that students only truly learn to write and spell by writing-- not by workbook pages, fill in the blanks, spelling lists, games or cute activities. The Writers' Workshop allows teachers to meet the needs of their students by differentiating instruction and planning instruction gathered in conferencing with individual students and teacher observations.

Writers' Workshop is affirming and encouraging. Students find their own voices and become empowered. Students learn to take risks in their writing and the endurance to stay with the task of writing. Allowing children to write (most of the time) about topics and ideas of their choice is critical for a successful workshop. They will learn to make their mark on the world by recording their own observations, hopes and dreams.

At home, encourage your child to keep a reflective journal of the things that happen at school and home. This

reflective journal can be used to develop the "senses" of writing. Have your child write about what he saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Provide experiences in your community that will interest your child and spark her writing. Especially encourage your child to write about personal feelings—pleasures as well as disappointments.

Always ask your child questions when he writes. Ask specific questions about your child's writing such as: "How did that happen?" "How did that make you feel?" "Can you tell me more about that?" "What are some other words you could use to describe...?"

Remember, children will not become proficient writers overnight. Writing takes time. Using the workshop approach at school and parents encouragement at home, will ensure that children will develop good writing skills that will last a lifetime.

Visit the Mary Cheney Library Building for a special fire safety story time during Fire Safety Week. This story time will take place Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Call 860-645-0577 for more info. Location:

Mary Cheney Library Building, 586  
Main St, Manchester, CT 06040

On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, visit the Mary Cheney Library Building at 10:30am to meet Llama Llama! Listen to a story, make a craft and have the opportunity to take a photo with Llama Llama. Remember to bring your camera! Call 860-645-0577 for more info. Location: Mary Cheney Library Building, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT 06040

The Late Fall Story time session at Manchester Public Library will begin on October 27<sup>th</sup> with programs for children from birth through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Story times are offered for infants, one-year olds, two-year olds, three-to-five year olds and elementary age children. Registration begins October 20<sup>th</sup> for Manchester residents and October 22<sup>nd</sup> for non-residents. Please call 860-645-0577 for more information and to register, or visit our website at <http://library.townofmanchester.org/childhome.html> for info.

## Numeracy Room

Ms. Sherman

This year at Keeney your child will be learning math by practicing in small guided groups. This learning strategy is called Guided Math. Guided Math is a structure for teaching where the teacher supports each child's development of mathematical proficiency at increasing levels of difficulty, within the context of a small group. It is based on the idea that working with children in small groups provides powerful possibilities for reaching all children. In Guided Math groups, students engage in standards-based, rigorous, meaningful learning tasks. The learning tasks focus on a particular concept, strategy or skill. Teachers facilitate this learning through hands-on activities that help tap into student's individual learning styles and interests so they stay engaged. In short, students spend more time interacting and doing math!

# Keeney Street Elementary School Song

Fifth Grade Students 2008-2009  
Ms. Elisa Haveles, Music Teacher

Brightly

Voice



Keeney Street School is where we come to learn. We make new friends and al ways

4



take our turn Teach - ers guide us through - out the day and

7



help us find our way. Qual - i - ty cubs have

10



al - ways said let's hear it for the white and red. Re -

13



spect your - self and oth - ers too, re - spect the world sur -

16



round - ing you. Keen - ey, Keen - ey,

19



we will re - mem - ber through - out the years.

21





## ACT OF KINDNESS

Superintendent Mr. Geary

Principal Mrs. Martin

Keeney Street School has been challenged by Mrs. Martin to do something to make the world a better place.....

.....and the Keeney Cubs have NOT let her down! !

After being challenged by Mrs. Martin, Keeney cubs have been thinking AND demonstrating their "act of kindness" to make this world a better place.



5th Grade Leadership  
Team  
and a cub from  
each grade level  
shared their  
"Act of Kindness"

Some of Keeney's Acts of Kindness include:

- Ask a friend who is lonely to play
- Respect someone when it is hard
  - Eat Healthy
- Assist elderly when needed
- Be a good listener to a friend
- Make the world a cleaner place
- Raise money for a needy cause
  - Compliment a friend

## KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS



# CATCH THE KEENEY KINDNESS



# Keeney Street School PTA

## Welcome Keeney Families!

Here at Keeney Street School your child is supported by a very active and energetic Parent Teacher Association or PTA. We provide many quality programs and fine arts assemblies that enrich your child's scholastic experience. We also offer many fun-filled events that the entire family can enjoy together. The children of Keeney School, our "Cubs" are our priority.

We believe that your child will benefit in many ways when you get involved with the school. The PTA strives to offer many opportunities for parents to step into their child's school-world. When you do, you will see your child's educational experience blossom even more!

We were delighted to hear that recently two of our Keeney Cub 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders, Grace Papa and Addison Hall, took the initiative to sell some of their trinkets and toys at their very own tag sale. They graciously donated their profits to the Keeney PTA to help raise money for field trips. What amazing children with big hearts and such great school spirit - Thank you girls so much!!!!



**Please join us at our second meeting *Tuesday October 7 from 6:30-7:30pm in the school cafeteria.* Bring the kids! We provide childcare with the Lutz Children's Museum during our meetings. All members that register on or before that night will be entered in a raffle drawing for special Keeney prizes. Please check us out - you'll be glad you did!**



## October PTA Fundraisers and Family Events:

- **October PTA Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** (following Open House) at 6:30 in the cafeteria. Special Guest Speakers – Mr. Matt Geary, Superintendent will talk about his new role and agenda for our schools and the Kindergarten teachers will talk about the Importance of Play in Kindergarten. Bring the kids...The Lutz will be on hand with an educational program!
- **Keeney Spirit Wear fundraiser – Monday, September 29...** Order your favorite Keeney Cub a t-shirts, sweatshirts and flannel pants!
- **Trunk-or-Treat – Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 pm...**Get your car ready and your cub dressed up and come and trunk-or-treat at Keeney. The PTA will give every decorated car a free bag of candy to hand out. What a great **FREE** event for your family!
- **Spirit Day...Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>...**It's Dress as your Favorite Storybook Character Day! Dress as a character from your favorite book or story. A suggested \$1 donation to your Keeney PTA is greatly appreciated!
- **Snip-its Fundraiser – September 20 – November 15...**Is your child looking for the ultimate haircut adventure? Bring in the flier that was sent home, or reference code # KES5 and our school will earn \$5 / haircut. What a fun way to support your school and give your child that great back-to-school look!
- **Great Lakes Scrip Company October 26 – November 12 ...**Get a jump start on your Holiday shopping by ordering Gift Cards for all those people that are hard to buy for. Fliers will be sent home at the end of October. What a great way to earn money for Keeney simply by purchasing gift cards!
- **Bounce Town Fundraiser - Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 pm...** Bounce Town Fundraiser – What a great way to have fun with your child while earning money for Keeney! Stay tuned for more details.
- **Keeney Street School Facebook Page...**Check out Keeney's new Facebook page and be sure to "Like" us to receive updates about things that are going on at our school.
- **Save the date...**Wolfpack Game - Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 our cubs will be performing during the first intermission.
- **Save the date...**Rockcats Game – Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:35 our cubs will sing the National Anthem before the start of the game.
- **Box Tops for Education...**There is a collection bin in the hallway, right in front of the school office. Please send in your box tops and be sure they have not expired. Questions...email Francene at [francenediana@cox.net](mailto:francenediana@cox.net). Help us make a difference for the Keeney Cubs.
- **Next Meeting...Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30** in the cafeteria. We will have Special Guest Speakers Santosha Oliver, Director of Teaching and Learning STEM to talk about the new enVision Math Program and Mike Houle from Muvement to talk about a great new after school program.
- **Monday, October 13 – Columbus Day...** No School
- **Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> ...**Half Day

Special **THANK YOU** to the following parents and volunteers who generously donated their time:

- Pat Allen & Tamara Speaks for Keeney's First Annual FREE Potluck Picnic. Beautiful weather, wonderful company, fun bouncing, good eats...what a fun night for the whole family!
- Niki Gallagher & Terri Skoog for chairing Keeney's Fall Genevieve Fundraiser. Thank you and the Keeney families for such a wonderful show of support for our cubs!  
Ribbit! Ribbit!
- Damaris Dorce & Keren Prescott for planning our restaurant and family friendly fundraisers such as Snip-its. They put the FUN in fundraising!
- Isabelle Whelton, Toni Zanks & Connie Anglin for creating Keeney Street School's Official Facebook page. What a great way to find out what's happening at Keeney!

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

Come to our October 7th meeting and find out how you too can get involved. We look forward to meeting you all!